

STATE OF MICHIGAN



CANDICE S. MILLER, Secretary of State
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48918-0001

October 4, 2002

United States Supreme Court
One First Street NE
Washington, DC 20543

Dear Justices:

I write this letter this evening recognizing that the Supreme Court will soon decide whether or not to hear New Jersey Democratic Party, et al. v. Samson.

I appreciate the complexity of this decision and the potential political ramifications.

My concern, however, extends beyond politics. For each of us, this case is not about New Jersey. It is not even about elections taking place in 2002. And it's certainly not about which party derives a benefit in the struggle for majority control of the United States Senate.

Rather, this case is about the enduring integrity of our electoral system. If state law regarding time, manner and place of elections can be so easily compromised – for the limited motivation of avoiding potential electoral defeat – our entire system is at risk. Elections risk becoming hopelessly bogged down in last minute candidate switches that would literally threaten the ability of the states to administer elections.

The prospect of political defeat cannot stand as a legitimate rationale to violate state law and vitiate an election that had already commenced.

As you consider this matter, I urge you to keep in mind these broader and timeless considerations.

Sincerely,

Candice S. Miller
Michigan Secretary of State